

## THE LAND ARMY OF AMERICA

(Women to Farm Hands)

By JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS  
Of The Vigilante

"I had to hire them for my farm because I couldn't get men. . . . Neighboring farmers who borrowed some of them later hated to admit that they were more efficient than man workers, but had to!"

The farmer who wrote those words employed 30 girls last summer to get in his crops, some of them girls from the "seasonal trades" out of a job, others students or college graduates out for a vacation, but few, if any, of them experienced farm hands. He made two important discoveries. First, that they were good workers. Second, that this kind of work was good for women, and as this farmer is none other than Doctor Sargent, the director of physical training, he ought to know.

He adds that he did not have a chance to try them at plowing or heavy work, though they can do that too, but at other kinds of farm work he found them in all ways the equal and in some ways the superior of men. They do not average as strong as men, though in proportion to their weight they are, but they made up in care and thoroughness what they lacked in "brawn," and they did not loaf on the job when the boss was not looking. Women are nearly always more conscientious than the "superior sex."

### Has Come to Stay.

The Woman's Land Army of America is still a new thing in most parts of the country, but it has come to stay and the sooner the farmers of America get that idea through their heads and live down their old-fashioned prejudice against this "new-fangled notion" the better for them and for the country. Every man released from the farm means one more man for the army or for other war work not done by women.

A year ago almost every farmer in the country shared this impractical and unpatriotic prejudice. Such prejudices die hard. All our prejudices about women die hard. I will give an amusing illustration. Last summer a number of "units" were employed in various parts of Westchester county, New York. A "unit" means a squad of woman workers in a "gang," we might call it, if they were men) who live and work together under the charge of a competent older woman experienced in agriculture, a sort of forewoman who manages the whole outfit, which includes their own cook and food and bedding. The farmer does not supply

anything except the wages and possibly a place to put up a few tents. The farmer's wife has no bother on extra work in the matter at all. Well, every one of these units in Westchester county made good, and there were exactly as many surprised farmers in Westchester county as there were units. At the end of the season each employer was asked, "Will you employ woman farm hands again next year?" Each farmer made exactly the same reply, "Yes, if I can get the same women."

Each thought that he had happened to have the luck to get the only good bunch of girls! Silly, shrewd fellows, those farmers! For it seemed to them quite obvious that women as a class could not be good farm laborers. A perfectly natural prejudice. Men as a class have always had the same certainty that women could never be good at anything "outside of the home" until they went out and made good at everything from voting and doctoring to driving ambulances, and even at fighting in the trenches when the necessity arose over in poor betrayed Russia.

### Kept Island From Starving.

American farmers, however, are the most enlightened in the world. Perhaps it will not take them so long to get the idea into their heads as it required to beat it into the British brain. In England, even after the scarcity of farm labor had become more acute than it is here now, the "woman's land army" movement was almost blighted by masculine prejudice until the government became alarmed and turned a clever trick. Prizes were offered at the county fairs for public competitions for woman workers in various departments of farm work. This aroused considerable curiosity and created a great deal of discussion. The question, however, was not whether girls could do farm work, but which girl could do it best! Big crowds gathered. Bets were made. Rivalry ran high. And when it was demonstrated before the astonished eyes of the British farmers that these "farm lassies," as they now affectionately term their "farmettes" over there, not only knew their job but were experts at it, the prejudice broke down and the country was saved. The woman's land army of England, now 300,000 strong, has kept the island from starving. This patriotic fact has been publicly acknowledged in parliament.

There are already 17 states of the Union organized under the Woman's Land Army of America, and in New York alone 3,000 farmettes are registered for this season. It is a fine patriotic service, a good thing for the farmer who can thus get good sober, industrious laborers at a cheap rate, a good thing for the girls, who can thus get a wholesome outing as well as fair wages, and the best thing of all for the nation, which needs food and needs men, and needs them at once.

## MEETING THE EMERGENCY

By VIVIAN M. MOSES  
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When H. G. Wells called the present war the war of machines he had in mind the vast quantities of engines of war used at the front—the ordinance, both large and small, the bomb-motors and mine-thrusters, gas-projectors, airplanes and tanks employed in the actual fighting. But there is another sense in which this is the war of machines even more truly than that in which the great British novelist used the term; for on the machines in the shops and factories of the allied nations depends an allied victory—on the machines and the men who drive them.

As has been the case with each of her allies, the United States since it entered the war has had to increase stupendously the output of its machine shops. This result is being accomplished by the erection of new plants, by the enlargement and increase in facilities of the shops already engaged in the production of war products, and by the conversion to this purpose of plants previously engaged in other work. The problem of multiplying the shops to work in is a comparatively simple one; more difficult is the problem of supplying the skilled workmen to fill these shops.

Obviously we cannot quadruple our skilled workmen by the old methods of apprenticeship, and training fast enough to meet the nation's needs. The old method has been found wanting. It consisted in taking the raw, unskilled laborer into the shop, starting him at the simplest work that could be found, and letting him fight his way slowly and painfully to the status of a trained mechanic. It was a method which wasted the three precious elements, time, material and man-power.

### New Way Was Found.

The training accomplished by private and public vocational and technical schools brings far better results, but produces too small a quantity of skilled mechanics to meet the emergency.

France found a new way. Great Britain has adopted it. And now America must get in line—already getting in line, in fact, with gratifying results. For the new method is swift, is sure, is comparatively cheap. It turns the grocer boy or the school teacher into a skilled mechanic with equal facility. It is the method of the shop training schools.

Shop training schools are now main-

tained by most of the larger metal-working plants engaged in manufacture of war products. They are spaces set aside for this purpose alone, and equipped with machines of every type used in the shops proper. An expert mechanic especially selected for his aptitude for this work is in charge in each of these shops, and under him other skilled mechanics act as teachers. Here are received the raw or under-trained applicants for work. They are assigned to the types of work to which they best seem fitted, and quickly and practically instructed in this work at the very machines which they will have to operate in the main shops. They work with the materials and on the actual orders upon which the shop is engaged, and the product of their labors becomes a part of the output of the shop. They are paid a fair hourly wage as learners, and this wage increases as the skill of the learner enables him to increase his output.

The results obtained in these shop training schools are almost beyond belief. The ideal conditions under which a raw man is taught to handle his machine enable him to become a skilled mechanic in a small fraction of the time formerly consumed in the old method under which he picked up knowledge bit by bit in the shop from such other workmen as had time to help him.

### Mechanics Are Needed.

For example, here, in a New England shop, is a grocer's man, after a week's training, operating his milling machine effectively, and reading the blue-print related to his work. Here, in an Ohio shop, are three girls formerly employed in a department store; they are now operating heavy hand-turret lathes on work requiring great precision; and the length of their training required variously from three to ten days.

"Here is a particularly capable woman," says an expert from one of the greatest American war factories, visiting another shop (speaking of one who was probably a teacher). "How long have you been here?" he asks this product of the shop training school. "I came yesterday," replies the woman, who is working a great turret-lathe, and needs them greatly. The shop training schools will supply this need, quickly and efficiently. To the employer they offer the surest method of supplying the trained operators without which his machines cannot turn.

To the individual seeking employment or willing to take a place in the swelling ranks of those providing the sinews of war for the American government, the shop training schools provide the opportunity for becoming, without undergoing a long period of training or probation, skilled mechanics, worthy of and receiving the wondrously high rates of payment which trained labor is commanding.

# Worst Fighting of War in 1918

British Successes of 1917 Pale in Comparison to Latest Battles.

## BIG EVENTS OF FOURTH YEAR

Battles of Cambrai, Third Battle of Ypres, Battle of Meuse, and Broodseinde and Passchendaele Loom Up Importantly.

London.—The heroic battles of the British army during the last half of 1917, including the battles of Cambrai, the third battle of Ypres, the battle of Meuse, and of Broodseinde and of Passchendaele, would loom up importantly in any survey of the past year's fighting on the western front but for one reason. They do not compare in any sense with the fighting since March 21, 1918.

The spring of 1917 saw the beginning of the allied offensive against Germany, but the third misadventure of the allies found itself diverted into a number of smaller battles, where occasionally some 200,000 men were employed on either side. Some 32,000 prisoners were taken by the British in eight of these thrusts against the German line between August 1, 1917, and the close of the year, and important positions were won, but the successes were only tactical.

The third battle of Ypres began July 31, 1917, and continued until August 10, again breaking out August 16, the British crossed the Yser canal, taking nine villages and 6,122 prisoners. When the battle was renewed, August 16, Langemarck was taken besides 2,114 more prisoners. Meanwhile, the Canadians on the Lens sector attacked and captured Hill No. 70, took 900 prisoners and maintained their positions against five counterattacks. This was on August 15.

### Smash Foe at Verdun.

The French on August 20, attacking on an 11-mile front at Verdun, recaptured about two-thirds of the ground which the crown prince's army had won in months of slaughter.

The chief action in September, 1917, was in the battle of Meuse road, which began September 20, the object being to loosen the German grip on the coast. Following an eight-hour bombardment the British advanced on an eight-mile front from Holbeke to Langemarck, capturing a half-dozen important positions and taking 3,243 prisoners.

During October, 1917, when disaster overtook the Italians, both the French and the British scored noteworthy successes. On October 4 a great struggle began on a front of eight miles on the Passchendaele ridge, called the battle of Broodseinde, perhaps the most important during the year on the British front. The Germans had planned an attack for 6 a. m., but the British launched their offensive an hour earlier, shattered three enemy divisions, broke up four others and took 4,446 prisoners, while Cana-

dians took 2,000 prisoners. The French, on October 23, attacked northeast of Soissons on a six-mile front on the Aisne, from Vauxillon to La Haye, piercing the enemy's line four miles and taking 11,000 prisoners. On October 9 the British took Poelcapelle and 2,028 prisoners and made some slight gains with heavy attacks in the Ypres sector October 22, 24 and 30.

On November 6 the Canadians won their great victory, capturing Passchendaele Ridge, for which the British had been battling for months. The Canadians held the ridge until the recent hammer blows. November also saw the British success, which was partially diminished by a surprise counter-attack, at Cambrai. The Third British army, under Sir Julian Byng, on November 20 launched its drive without artillery preparation on an eight-mile front, smashing the Hindenburg line, almost reaching the outskirts of the important railway center of Cambrai and taking 8,000 prisoners the first day.

### Huns Regain Ground.

The battle continued ten days, prisoners being increased to 11,551, while 138 guns were taken. The deepest advance was seven miles. But on November 30 the Germans delivered a tremendous attack against Byng's

## PREFERS SINGLE BLISS TO BEING HUN'S 'FRAU'

Ellensburg, Wash.—Mrs. Maebel Schlamann seeks a divorce here because, she says, she would rather be single than the wife of a German. She complains that her husband, when they were married in 1915, told her he was a naturalized American, but since that he insists on calling her "frau."

army, aiming to cut it off from the rest of the British forces. The Germans succeeded in recovering about half of the ground Byng's army had won.

During the past year the British have made considerable progress in Mesopotamia and Palestine, capturing Jerusalem December 9, 1917, while the allied armies from the Adriatic to the Egean have prevented the Germanic allies from gaining control of the Mediterranean.

So far the British have won more than a third of Palestine from the Turks. In Mesopotamia the British have advanced about 100 miles up the Tigris and Euphrates since capturing Baghdad, and have made some progress toward the north of Hitt, capturing more than 15,000 prisoners.

During January, February and the first half of March only small actions occurred on the western front, the British preparing for the German drive which was launched with unprecedented fury March 21.

# Marine Tells of His First Fight

Porto.—He was a United States Marine. He hailed from Chicago, and I judged his age to be twenty-two or twenty-three. I did not learn his name, but during the short hour we spent together he poured out to me his personal impressions of the fighting in which he had taken a share, at Chateau Thierry.

He naively apologized when he learned I was an American, saying: "Of course, when I've been in and out of the trenches a few times I expect it will all grow stale, and I shan't want to talk about it."

He was just a normal boy, and he related his experiences and impressions without pose or boastfulness.

When we took over that part of the line we were told it was a quiet sector," he said, "but it didn't remain long quiet. We learned afterwards that at first the Germans thought we were British, our uniforms being somewhat alike, but when they discovered that we were Yanks they began to get curious about us. They were sure satisfied pretty quick."

### Had Empty Feeling.

"What were your own personal feelings the first time you went over the top?" I asked.

"Well, slowly, 'I suppose I was frightened. I had a sickening, empty feeling somewhere inside me. Just before we were to start our captain said: 'Now, boys, there's no need to feel bad about it. These men over the

other side are feeling just as bad. In fact a mighty sight worse.' I remember his words distinctly, because they were the last he said, except to give the command to start. We had to advance through a field of green wheat, sopping with dew, so that we got wet through and could hardly keep our feet on the slippery ground. Our captain and lieutenant were killed right at the start, and also the first sergeant."

"We had only the gunner sergeant left, and all around the men were falling, and the air was filled with the noise from bursting shells, cries of dying men, the groans of the wounded, the singing of bullets, and the clatter of the machine guns."

"I've never been what you'd call a praying chap, but I prayed hard then, and many times since."

After a moment I said: "Yes, and then?"

"Well, we saw pretty soon that if we didn't hurry up and get to the wood there wouldn't be any of us left to take it—so we just hiked like—well, as if it was an express train that we just had to catch or bust. And when we got there it didn't take us long to clear the Boche out. He would go on firing until we were right on top of him with the bayonet and then he'd yell out 'Kamerad!'"

"Even in the midst of the fight I couldn't help laughing out at the man alongside of me. He had seen his chum fall and came on just wild, and when he was going for one German the Boche yelled: 'Kamerad, I've a wife and ten children in Berlin,' and the marine said: 'If you went back to Berlin there'd be ten more children—ten—' with you,' and rammed him with his bayonet."

"What happened after you cleared out the Hun?" I asked.

"By that time we were reduced to about half our company, and were ordered to dig ourselves in. You should have seen me dig!"

"Men were falling all around and two bullets went through my pack as I crouched as near the ground as possible digging like a— So I took my pack off and put it on the parapet to the side of me, and the Germans kept on popping at it. While I was digging every time I looked up to throw the dirt out I could see a flower moving to and fro in the wind just in front of me, and then once I glanced up just in time to see that flower snipped off as if by an invisible hand and lie on the ground. Somehow that made me realize almost more than anything how near death was."

## SMOKES IN POWDER PLANT

Negro Is Held to Grand Jury on Charge of Violating Sabotage Act.

Newark, N. J.—John J. Mason, a negro employed by the Du Pont Powder works at Parlin, N. J., was locked up to await action by the federal grand jury on the charge of violating the sabotage act.

Mason's offense consisted of lighting a match and smoking a cigarette in the ether room of the powder plant. The complaint against him alleges he took the risk of interfering with war work by furthering the chances of an explosion.

No mention was made of what might have happened to Mason.

### Kaiser's Face on Egg.

Connellsville, Pa.—An egg bearing on the shell a striking likeness of the Kaiser was laid by a hen here. The face is at one end of the egg and shows plainly the helmet, the long nose and pointed chin of the German ruler.

# Temperance Notes

(Conducted by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.)

## "BAR THE BARLEY FROM THE BAR AND BAKE IT INTO BREAD."

Barley flour makes excellent bread and barley mush is a splendid breakfast food. The country needs the barley that is being rotted to make beer. The following recipes are offered to those who do not know how to use barley flour to make barley flour and wheat flour bread:

Five cupfuls wheat flour.  
One cupful barley flour.  
(Above flour sifted together.)  
One cupful molasses.  
One cupful water.  
One tablespoonful shortening.  
Two tablespoonfuls sugar.  
Two tablespoonfuls salt.  
One cake compressed yeast, dissolved in one-quarter cupful lukewarm water.

Place the sugar, salt and shortening in the mixing bowl and pour in the scalded milk and water. When cooled to lukewarm add the dissolved yeast, then stir in the flour previously sifted together, and when thoroughly mixed place on breadboard and knead until smooth and elastic, adding a little flour from time to time if necessary; then place in a greased bowl, cover and let rise in a warm place until light (about two and a half hours). Knead it down in the bowl and allow it to stand until light, which will require about one hour. Knead down and let stand for 20 minutes, then mold into loaves, place in greased pans and let rise until light. Bake well in a moderate oven.

If it is preferred to set overnight, use only one-half compressed yeast cake or one dry yeast cake and an extra one-half teaspoonful of salt.—Union Signal.

## WASTING FOOD, LABOR, LIFE.

These are the chief factors in winning the war;—and the liquor men are wasting all three!

They are wasting food. Last year the waste amounted to 1,000,000,000 pounds of foodstuffs! And they have no right to starve some men by making others drunk!

They are wasting labor. About 300,000 men are engaged in the manufacture, sale and distribution of booze—in breweries, saloons and restaurants, as brewers, bartenders and waiters—at a time when every man is needed in some useful occupation to help win the war. The labor of these 300,000 men is worse than wasted—no possible good can come of it, but much harm is done.

They are wasting life. Bartenders, brewery workers and waiters in saloons lose an average of six years of life on account of their occupations. If the 300,000 men who make and sell booze lose an average of six years of life, it makes a total of 1,800,000 years of life. The average man works about 50 years—so that the liquor traffic is using up the equivalent of 60,000 men in each generation. And this is too great a price for the nation to pay.—Charles Steihs.

## GERMAN'S BEER-POISONED.

This from an article by Professor Daly of Harvard, in the New York Times:

"A mildly alcoholic state is usually not conspicuous by a very decided lack of efficiency or of social decorum in the poisoned man. Hence the effects of steady beer drinking are not as striking as in the case of persons poisoned with whisky, rum, or absinthe. Yet I venture the hypothesis that life-long drinking of mild beer has been one of the most potent causes for the amazing brutalities of official Germany. Those crimes have been ordered by men who, for decades, have been poisoned by beer. In times of peace and quiet the poisoning causes derangement of brain tissue, often expressed merely in some form of sentimentality, plain or maudlin. However, the victim is put under stress, his nervous disorder is likely to lead to bad temper and bad judgment, with endless possibilities in the way of loss of dignity, poise, and the sense of human fellowship. The final result here considered is the development of true savagery."

## SCIENCE OUR GREAT ALLY.

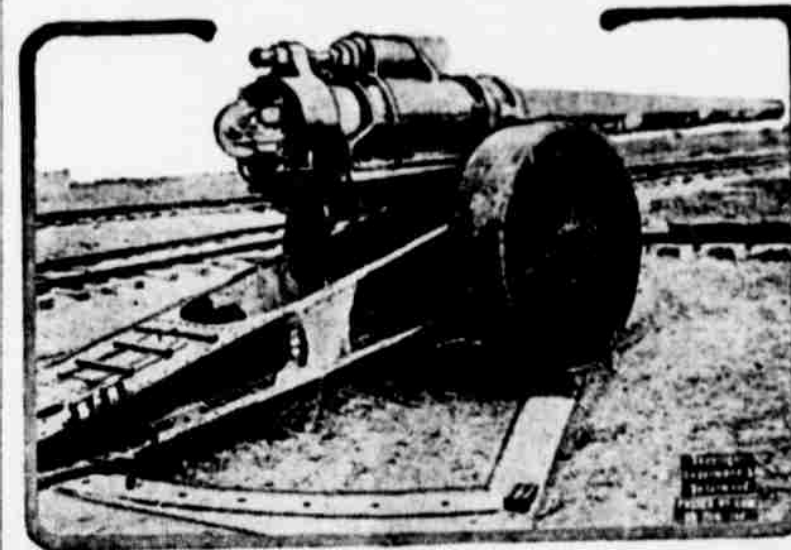
The aim of science—says a great scientist of our day—is not primarily improvement of the community or government of the state. These are merely its by-products. Its purpose is the revelation of truth. Hence the conclusions of science should have, do have, enormous weight in this age of truth-seeking; in these times when reason, not sentiment, rules, when the people are everywhere asking to be shown. The voice of science should have, is having, great influence in the settlement of the liquor question. We should see to it that our statesmen, our lawmakers, our men and women thinkers and voters, are informed as to its latest word concerning alcohol.

## FEWER INEBRIATES.

The State Hospital for Inebriates at Knoxville, Ia., is finding its supply of patients steadily diminishing. Two years ago it cost \$12,243 to maintain the hospital for one quarter. For the quarter ending December 31, 1917, the maintenance was only \$3,445, a 75 per cent decrease in two years.

During the month of May sixteen New Jersey towns voted dry, among them Princeton. In Wisconsin the important cities of Superior, Ashland and Beloit voted dry.

## ONE OF AMERICA'S HEAVY GUNS



Model of a big American gun that is being turned out in large numbers for use in France. It already is camouflaged.

# Excel Enemy in Air

British Air Force Headquarters in France.—There have been many signs recently of extreme uneasiness by the German high command regarding the increasing ascendancy of the allied airmen on the western front. This has been especially evident since the American airmen have begun to appear in force and have proved themselves of the same mettle as the French and British flyers.

Perhaps the most striking evidence of German official anxiety regarding the allied superiority in the air is to be found in the official German wireless news. In an effort to counteract the depressing effect of the real facts of the situation, the German wireless editors make the wildest statements, bordering almost on humor.

Thus a recent copy of the German wireless report says: "Superior methods of flying and greater skill have secured for the German air force suc-

cesses on a scale such as were never known before."

"If Germany is really pleased with her air record for the last few months," remarked a British squadron leader to the correspondent, "there is no reason for us to complain. We ask nothing better than that Germany should go on having the same kind of success in future months."

He took as an example the report for May, which lay open on his desk. "This report," he explained, "deals with the British air fighting alone, and has no reference to the fine air work of the French, Italians and Americans. During the month the British brought down 368 German machines in aerial combat, and twenty by fire from the ground, while 100 more were driven down out of control and probably destroyed. During the same period 128 British machines failed to return to their airdromes."